

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, March 22nd, 1991

~~Bertha Wilson~~

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Mr. Treasurer -

It is my most pleasant duty to present to you and to this Convocation the Honourable Madam Justice Bertha Wilson and to request that you confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Trained as a teacher in her native Scotland, law was her second career however her quiet determination and legal ability soon won her recognition. Her achievements and successes in the law have also served to mark a path which others have now followed. She was the first woman to be elected to the National Council of the Canadian Bar Association, the first woman to be appointed to a provincial Court of Appeal and the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

As a judge, first in the Court of Appeal of Ontario and more latterly in the Supreme Court of this nation her rigorous legal analysis of the issues combined with her humane and sensitive awareness to the needs and rights of individuals led her to propound innovative approaches to the problems facing the legal system and society at large in these increasingly complex times.

Madam Justice Bertha Wilson has served the law, the profession and this country with great distinction and dedication and is deserving of the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, which I ask that you confer upon her.